WHEN THE SPY BUSINESS GETS IN THE NEWS—

Is a new drive under way to shackle the CIA? Recent critical reports raise that question.

Actually, CIA is only the most visible part of a huge federal intelligence machine that is getting bigger. Rules that govern it have been tightened.

Critics are firing away again at the Central Intelligence Agency. Some officials in Washington wonder if it is the start of a new campaign to discredit the CIA, which has often been attacked in the past.

In recent weeks, one series of reports has revolved around the CIA's record in the Dominican Republic. President Johnson is pictured as irritated by CIA fumbles there, to the point of turning over some of the intelligence job in Latin America to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This is totally denied by the White House.

Another set of reports concerns the CIA's activities in Asia. CIA agents, for example, were accused by Indonesian politicians of plotting a revolt in that country. This, too, is officially denied.

A third line of attack centers on Vice Adm. William F. Raborn, Jr. (Ret.), who took over as head of the CIA a few months ago. He is described, by writers identified with left-of-center views, as failing to grasp the more important aspects of the intelligence job.

Disturbing doubts. At the same time, there has been a spate of books, memoirs and television programs that tend to raise doubts in the public mind about the extent and nature of U. S. intelligence activities.

One TV program, for instance, revealed that in World War II the telephones and private conversations of a number of prominent people, including Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of then President Franklin D. Roosevelt, were monitored by Army intelligence men using wiretaps and other devices.

That resulted from a security net set up around the original atomic-bomb experiments in Chicago. The incident has raised the question, for many, of whether similar activities go on now; and if so, under what rules.

One fact about intelligence is undisputed, and that is that it has become one of the Federal Government's largest and costliest fields of effort.

As the chart on page 71 shows, the Government has nine full-time intelligence units. Many other agencies contribute to the gathering and analyzing of intelligence from time to time.

The number of people employed and the amount of money spent are secret, but they are obviously growing.

The CIA, having recently completed a huge headquarters in Langley, Va., already is spilling out of that into new buildings in Rosslyn, another Virginia suburb of Washington. The FBI is about to build a new headquarters.

In all, it is known the U. S. employs tens of thousands on intelligence work, and it is estimated the Government spends several billion dollars a year on collecting information.

How it all works. On the operational side, the nine organizations in the U. S. "intelligence community" keep a "watch committee" on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This watchdog unit, located in the Pentagon, works with a checklist of danger signals that include any development—political, economic or military—that might indicate trouble in any place in the world.

Information pours in to the "watch committee" from many sources. The CIA feeds "flash" reports. Operational centers at the State Department are in constant contact with the committee.

—USN&WR Photo

Two intelligence chiefs: FBI's J. Edgar Hoover and Admiral Raborn of the CIA

The North American Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs and the Strategic Air Command in Omaha feed in reports about air and missile activity in Russia, China or Cuba. The Army reports on Soviet troop movements in East Germany.

The committee also gets information from outside the formal intelligence community. The Agriculture Department, for instance, reports on rice crops in China or Cuba; the Treasury on movements of gold or narcotics.

Superboard. At the top of the whole intelligence community is a superauthority called the United States Intelligence Board. This group meets at least once every week at CIA headquarters in Langley to prepare a comprehensive summary of secret information known as the "national intelligence estimate."

Over a year's time, USIB will issue 50 or 60 of these intelligence estimates, plus 25 or more special reports.

These cover the basic problems that can be foreseen, and copies are rushed to the White House. They try to answer for the President such questions as:

What is Red China likely to do if more U. S. troops are sent into Vietnam?

How many missiles do the Russians have now?

What is likely to happen in Cuba if Castro is shot or overthrown?

Material is drawn from a vast pool of information collected from thousands of sources. The resulting "estimate" represents the best thinking of the entire intelligence community.

Working under the Intelligence Board are from 50 to 60 special committees manned by experts from the various intelligence agencies. About half of the committees are in weekly sessions.

These groups of experts do the needed spadework on special problems. Some are assigned to monitor Soviet and Red Chinese nuclear developments, or discoveries in the electronics field. Political experts assess the stability of foreign governments, friend and foe. Economic specialists try to figure out where a timely flow of foreign-aid dollars might bring good results.

Changes for CIA. In all this intelligence effort, day in and day out, the

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